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HOUSE RESOLUTION 190  
By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Lea Cavender for her remarkable accomplishments and her philanthropy.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Lea Cavender is most assuredly one such citizen who is richly deserving of this body's praise; and

WHEREAS, while working as an employee of the Ribbon Outlet in Pigeon Forge, Ms. Cavender realized that the main reason most people did not purchase ribbon was because they did not know how to tie attractive bows; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of her father, she created the E-Z BowMaker, a wooden tool that makes tying beautiful bows easy; in 1993, she sold 10,000 E-Z Bow Makers to the Ribbon Outlet; and

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WHEREAS, Lea Cavender, with her husband Art, achieved 1.5 million dollars in sales during their first year of business; through their hard work and ingenuity, the Cavenders had increased their sales to more than \$5 million by 1999; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cavender, realizing that in the future her company could be vulnerable to competitors, formed a strategy to make her name and her products household words; subsequently, she has spent the past six years making her name known through new products, product packaging, and heavy television exposure; she has appeared as a regular guest on several cable programs, including The Carol Duvall Show on HGTV, Aleene's Creative Living on TNN, and Handmade by Design on Lifetime; and

WHEREAS, an astute businesswoman, she also serves as the Show Director of the Harvest Craft Festival, which was ranked in 2001 by readers of *Sunshine Artist* Magazine as one of the best craft shows in the country; and

WHEREAS, Lea Cavender generously provides free booth space at the festival for the United Way each year; she also donated a portion of the festival's 2001 proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cavender has graciously donated a large number of her company's products to the United Way of Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, a compassionate and caring woman, Lea Cavender, donated truckloads of bedding, clothes, and toys last Christmas to Cocke County residents who had lost their belongings to fire or had fallen on hard times; and

WHEREAS, she is blessed with the love of her husband, Art, and her two children, Ashley and Alex; and

WHEREAS, Lea Cavender is a wonderful human being who inspires others with her creativity, enthusiasm, and kindness; the epitome of a good neighbor and public-spirited citizen, her life of service and goodwill stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cavender is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this legislative body to honor Lea Cavender for her remarkable accomplishments and uncommon devotion to the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor Lea Cavender, applaud her ingenuity and business acumen, commend her generosity to the United Way and the citizens of Cocke County, and impart our sincere appreciation for her altruistic efforts. We also extend to her our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.